



EQUINE INDUSTRY

The love affair between horses and the Commonwealth dates back to 1610 when the first horses arrived in Jamestown. Since then, Virginia's equine industry has continued to grow and flourish. Today, live racing, horse farms, breeders and others contribute to making Virginia the fifth largest equine state in the nation behind Texas, California, Missouri and Tennessee. From Thoroughbred race horses to steeplechase jumpers, swimming ponies to bucking broncos, Virginia is for horse lovers.

CURRENT STATE OF THE INDUSTRY IN VIRGINIA

Caring, grooming, feeding, transporting, training, sheltering and providing equipment and land for more than 170,000 horses has created a major industry within the Commonwealth. Horse owners in Virginia spend an average of \$2,969 per horse/per year, which equals approximately **\$505 million** each year in direct expenditures supporting horses in the state. In addition, horse-related events attract more than **800,000 participants and spectators to Virginia annually**, resulting in **more than \$167 million** spent in the state during more than 700 annual events and competitions.

Cash receipts for horses sold in Virginia total **\$99.4 million** annually, making equine-based activities the **seventh largest agricultural commodity** in Virginia. In addition, Virginia's horse industry generates nearly **20,000 jobs** and **more than \$352 million in wages and salaries**. (Source: Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service [VASS])

Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horses are the two leading breeds at 36,300 and 32,500 heads, respectively.

Throughout the state, equine inventory by breed is as follows:

- Thoroughbreds – 21.4 percent
- Quarter Horses – 19.1 percent
- Arabians – 7.1 percent
- Ponies – 6.2 percent
- Tennessee Walkers – 5.7 percent
- All other equine – 40.5 percent

COMPONENTS OF THE EQUINE INDUSTRY

The equine industry includes agriculture, breeding, racing and entertainment or recreation. It is a diverse industry that supports a wide variety of activities in all regions of the state, combining the primarily rural activities of breeding, training, maintaining and riding horses with the more urban activities of operating racetracks, satellite wagering facilities, horse shows and public sales.

AGRICULTURE

More than 12,800 equine are sold annually in Virginia, representing a sales value of nearly \$99.4 million a year. The total value of all equine in the state totals **\$1.46 billion**, or an average of \$8,599 per equine. (Source: VASS)

BREEDING

Breeding comprises a large part of the industry in the state with a total of nearly **\$505 million** a year spent caring for horses. There are approximately 27,300 mares and 5,000 stallions that are primarily used for breeding in Virginia.

The top five breeds bred in the state include:

- Thoroughbreds – 36,300 horses
- Quarter Horses – 32,500 horses
- Arabian and Anglo Arabian – 12,000 horses
- Ponies (all types) – 10,500 horses
- Tennessee Walker – 9,700 horses

The top five expenses for equine owners/operators include:

- Equipment Purchases – \$60,878,000
- Paid Labor Expenses – \$57,404,000
- Feed and Bedding Expenses – \$55,185,000
- Equine Purchases – \$50,391,000
- Capital Improvements – \$35,679,000

HORSE FARMS

There are approximately **28,000 equine operations/farms** within the Commonwealth. Equine operations or farms are defined as operations that generate or have the potential to generate a yearly profit of more than \$1,000.

Virginia equine operators spent a total of nearly \$505 million on expenses, including equipment purchases, paid labor, feed and bedding, equine purchases and capital improvements.

The following are the top five counties where the highest numbers of horses reside in Virginia:

- Loudoun – 15,800 horses
- Fauquier – 13,700 horses
- Albemarle – 7,000 horses
- Augusta – 5,000 horses
- Bedford – 4,600 horses

PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING

Horse racing has been popular since Colonial times when one-on-one races took place down village streets, country lanes and across level pastures. Some historians claim that the first American Quarter Horse races were held in Enrico County (now Henrico County), Virginia as early as 1674.

In 2006, horse racing generated nearly **\$2.9 million in tax revenue** for the Commonwealth, raising the total amount of tax revenues generated since pari-mutuel horse racing began in 1996 to approximately **\$23.2 million**. Most of the tax revenues pay for the operation of the Virginia Racing Commission, the state agency charged with growing, sustaining and controlling the native horse racing industry. Nearly **\$6 million** of the money generated has been contributed to the state's General Fund.

Pari-mutuel wagering has made a direct financial contribution totaling **\$31 million** since 1997 to the state and the following cities/counties/special interest groups:

- New Kent County
- Henrico County
- Scott County
- Richmond
- Chesapeake
- Hampton
- Alberta
- Vinton
- Martinsville
- The Virginia/Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
- The Virginia Horse Industry Board
- The Virginia Horse Center

RACING

Virginians have enjoyed live racing since the passing of pari-mutuel wagering and the opening of the Colonial Downs in 1997. The following are some key events in each form of racing.

- *Thoroughbred Racing* – Live Thoroughbred racing is held at Colonial Downs in New Kent, Va. beginning June 15 through August 7 every Friday through Tuesday, with post times beginning at 5 p.m. weekly and 1 p.m. on the weekends. You can also enjoy Thoroughbred racing year round at the state's nine satellite wagering facilities.
- *Harness Racing* – Harness racing in Virginia is held at Colonial Downs' unique one-turn mile harness racetrack each fall.
- *Steeplechase Racing* – Another popular form of racing, steeplechase racing, includes major events such as The Montpelier Hunt Race, which takes place at Montpelier, the former home of James and Dolley Madison. Other popular events across the state include The Strawberry Hill Races at Colonial Downs on April 14, the Foxfield Spring Race Meet on April 28 and the Gold Cup on May 5 at The Great Meadow in The Plains.

SATELLITE WAGERING FACILITIES

In addition to live racing at Colonial Downs, the passing of pari-mutuel wagering enabled the state to open satellite wagering facilities. Horse racing fans in Virginia can enjoy racing and wagering throughout the year at the following locations:

- ***Colonial Downs-Chesapeake Military Hwy***
3376 South Military Highway
Chesapeake, VA 23323
Phone: (757) 558-1111
Fax: (757) 558-1384
Site Manager: Lauryn Hughes
- ***Colonial Downs-Chesapeake-Indian River***
4301 Indian River Road
Chesapeake, VA 23325
Phone: (757) 213-1100
Fax: (757) 213-1090
Site Manager: Harriet Steeves
- ***Colonial Downs-Hull Street Road***
6502 Hull Street
Richmond, VA 23224
Phone: (804) 521-7877
Fax: (804) 521-7879
Site Manager: Paulette Coleman

- **Colonial Downs-West Broad Street**
 4700 West Broad Street
 Richmond, VA 23230
 Phone: (804) 342-2211
 Fax: (804) 358-9079
 Site Manager: Karen Austin

- **Colonial Downs-Martinsville**
 3951 Greensboro Road
 Ridgeway, VA 24148
 Phone: (276) 632-0187
 Fax: (276) 632-2879
 Site Manager: Brent DeHart

- **Colonial Downs-Scott County**
 38 US Highway 23 North
 Weber City, VA 24290
 Phone: (276) 225-0200
 Fax (276) 225-1115
 Site Manager: Teresa Prillaman

- **Colonial Downs-Alberta**
 24 Colonial Downs Place
 Alberta, VA 23821
 Phone: (434) 949-0290
 Fax: (434) 949-0847
 Site Manager: Darlene Writtenberry

- **Colonial Downs-Hampton**
 1909 Commerce Drive
 Hampton, VA 23666
 Phone: (757) 838-7762
 Fax: (757) 838-7136
 Site Manager: Joyce Marsh

- **Colonial Downs-Vinton**
 1135 Vinyard Rd.
 Vinton, VA 24179
 Phone: (540) 278-1120
 Fax: (540) 278-1130
 Site Manager: Trish Deaton

PLEASURE RIDING, POLO MATCHES AND OTHER EQUINE ACTIVITIES

Pleasure and trail riding have the largest following in the state, followed by breeding and competition/show activities. Related equine activities to see and participate in include:

- *Pleasure and Trail Riding* – There are hundreds of opportunities to ride across the state and take in the beautiful scenery and enjoy all Virginia has to offer in horseback riding. The JBit Ranch in Berryville, Va. offers riding lessons overlooking the gorgeous Blue Ridge Mountains. Or, take an “urban” trail ride and tour historic Fredericksburg.
- *Horse Shows* – Another popular component of the equine industry, horse shows showcase the best of the best. Events include “The Virginia Equine Extravaganza: Horse Expo and Trade Show” featuring everything equestrian on October 26-28 and “The Upperville Colt and Horse Show,” the oldest hunters and jumpers show in the United States, held June 4-10.
- *Polo Matches* – Virginia offers many notable polo matches throughout the year, including “America’s 400th Anniversary Polo, Wine and Musical Celebration” featuring the USA versus England Polo Match on May 12 in Leesburg. The Colonial Polo Cup takes place at the beautiful Shirley Plantation in Charles City, Va. on September 30 and is an annual favorite.
- *Annual Pony Swim and Auction* at Chincoteague – Each July, cowboys round up the wild ponies from Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Assateague Island and have them swim across the channel to Chincoteague Island, where they rest before being moved down Main Street for public auction.

*Note: This is just a small sample of the many equine events taking place across the state. For more detailed information, please visit the events section of this media kit or contact a Virginia Racing Commission representative.



KEY ORGANIZATIONS AND EVENTS

Multiple organizations represent different facets of the equine industry and contribute to growing and sustaining a native horse industry in the Commonwealth.

THE VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION

The Virginia Racing Commission was established by an Act of the Virginia General Assembly in 1989 to grow, sustain and control the native horse racing industry in Virginia, including control of all horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering conducted in the Commonwealth. The Virginia Racing Commission prescribes regulations and conditions that command and promote excellence and complete honesty and integrity in racing and wagering.

Commissioners include:

Peter C. Burnett – Chairman
Mark T. Brown – Vice Chairman
William H. (Trip) Ferguson
Clinton Miller
David C. Reynolds

Stan Bowker – Executive Secretary

10700 Horsemen's Road
New Kent, VA 23124
Phone: (804) 966-7400
Web site: www.vrc.virginia.gov

Press Inquiries:

Amy Kaloski
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COLONIAL DOWNS

Colonial Downs is the Commonwealth's first pari-mutuel horse track, offering seasonal Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing. The track opened on [Sept. 1, 1997](#) and is centrally located in [New Kent, Va.](#) adjacent to [Interstate 64](#), halfway between Richmond, Va. and Williamsburg, Va.

Ian Stewart serves as the president of Colonial Downs.

Press Inquiries:

Darrell Wood
10515 Colonial Downs Parkway
New Kent, VA 23124

Phone: (804) 966-7223

E-mail: dwood@colonialdowns.com

Web site: www.colonialdowns.com

VIRGINIA HORSE COUNCIL

The Virginia Horse Council is a not-for-profit organization formed by horsemen for Virginia horsemen. The membership and Board of Directors include representatives for all breeds. The purpose of the Virginia Horse Council is to promote and improve the horse industry in Virginia. Its mission is to support the Virginia equine community and to serve as a lobbyist on issues affecting horsemen, horsewomen and horses in the Commonwealth.

Gene Hansen serves as president of the Virginia Horse Council.

Press Inquiries:

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Mineral, VA 23117

Phone: (888) HORSEVA/(888) 467-7382

E-mail: kharold@virginiahorsecouncil.org

Web site: www.virginiahorsecouncil.org

VIRGINIA HORSE CENTER

The Virginia Horse Center is a 600-acre, state-of-the-art environment for horse shows and other livestock events. There are currently eight barns to accommodate 750 horses in permanent stabling and approximately 1,200 horses indoors in permanent and temporary stabling.

The Virginia Horse Center has 18 show rings and arenas, including the 300' x 150' indoor Waldron Arena in the Howard P. Anderson Coliseum. There is a five-mile Olympic caliber cross-country course and an internationally recognized carriage driving marathon course on its Oak Hill property. Future plans for Oak Hill include a steeplechase course and steeplechase timber.

John F.R. Scott serves as executive director of the Virginia Horse Center.

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Web site: www.horsecenter.org

VIRGINIA HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD

The Virginia Horse Industry Board was established in 1994 as the result of legislation and a statewide referendum. The Board is responsible for the promotion and economic development of the horse industry in Virginia and operates through the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The Board promotes the Virginia horse industry through a variety of activities and programs, including the publication of free, informational materials and materials for children, trade shows and various sponsorships through its grant program. Each year, the Board reviews grant proposals and considers projects in the areas of education, marketing and research. The Board has supported economic impact studies, educational seminars and projects such as the Virginia State 4-H Horse Show. To date, the Board has awarded more than \$800,000 in grants to promote the horse industry in the state.

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Web site: www.vhib.org

VIRGINIA THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Thoroughbred Association (VTA) was organized in 1941 to cultivate the development of the Commonwealth's heritage as a producer of quality Thoroughbred horses. Today, more than 60 years later, the VTA boasts a membership base of more than 400 members. With the passage of pari-mutuel racing legislation in Virginia in 1988 and the opening of Colonial Downs in 1997, the VTA has vastly expanded the scope of its operations.

The VTA has emerged as the industry leader assisting the Virginia Racing Commission in developing and fine-tuning the rules under which the Commission regulates the Virginia Breeders Fund. The VTA administers and promotes the Virginia Breeders Fund. The VTA also works closely with the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA) and Colonial Downs to pursue the expansion of live horse racing in the Commonwealth.

Donna Dennehy serves as president of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association, and Glenn Petty serves as executive director.

Press Inquiries:

Glenn Petty

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Warrenton, VA 20186
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E-mail: gpetty@vabred.org
Web site: www.vabred.org

VIRGINIA HARNESS HORSE ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Harness Association governs the sport of harness racing for the state of Virginia. The purpose of the association is to represent harness horsemen/horsewomen in negotiations of purses, racing conditions and all matters affecting the industry as a whole. The Virginia Harness Association manages the Standardbred Breeders' Fund under the supervision of the Virginia Racing Commission.

R.C. Dunavant, Jr., DVM, serves as the president of the Virginia Harness Horse Association.

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E-mail: vhha@earthlink.net
Web site: www.vha.net

VIRGINIA HORSEMEN'S BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (VHBPA) is a not-for-profit membership organization that represents Thoroughbred owners and trainers who race at Colonial Downs. The VHBPA negotiates with the management and ownership of Colonial Downs for race days, dates and purses and provides educational, recreational, health, counseling and religious programs for back stretch workers.

Robin Richards serves as president of the VHBPA, and Frank Petramalo serves as executive director.

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38 Garrett Street
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Fax: (540) 347-0034
E-mail: race@vhbpa.org
Web site: www.vhbpa.org

VIRGINIA STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Steeplechase Association is dedicated to the horsemen in Virginia involved in the sport of steeplechasing. The Virginia Steeplechase Association is not a sanctioning body, but serves as an advocacy group for horsemen involved in Steeplechase racing. Racing occurs March through November and attracted an estimated one million fans in 2006.

Dr. William Allison serves as president of the Virginia Steeplechase Association, and Will O'Keefe serves as vice president.

Press Inquiries:

Donna T. Rogers

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Hamilton, VA 20158

Phone: (540) 338-4031

E-mail: dtrogers@erols.com

Web site: www.virginiasteepchase.com

VIRGINIA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Quarter Horse Association strives to develop positive participation in Quarter Horse activities within Virginia in cooperation with the American Quarter Horse Association. The organization seeks to promote and stimulate the sale, breeding, exhibition and ownership of the Quarter Horse.

Above all, the Virginia Quarter Horse Association encourages sportsmanship and family values in all activities, insisting on the humane and dignified treatment of the American Quarter Horse by owners, trainers and exhibitors.

Gene Stone serves as the president of the Virginia Quarter Horse Association.

Press Inquiries:

Gene Stone

7418 Highgate Lane

Bealeton, VA 22712

Phone: (757) 721-6736

E-mail: stone_gene@hotmail.com

Web site: www.myvqha.com

VIRGINIA HORSE SHOWS ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Horse Shows Association (VHSA) is an association of show members and individual members cooperating to promote the sport and improve the breeding of horses in the Commonwealth. All breed groups, shows and horse interests are represented, and membership is open to all individuals and all shows in Virginia and the bordering states of Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and North Carolina.

L. M. Gerald serves as president for the Virginia Horse Shows Association.

Press Inquiries:
L.M. Gerald
32 Ashby Street Suite 204
Warrenton, VA 20186
Phone: (540) 349-0910
E-mail: vhsa@verizon.net
Web site: www.vhsa.com

VIRGINIA PONY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Pony Breeders Association was formed to establish a registry of Virginia-bred ponies, promote the use and welfare of Virginia-bred ponies, foster the improvement of ponies and foster and preserve the interests of breeders, owners and users of ponies in Virginia.

P.O. Box 191
Montpellier Station, VA 22957
Phone: (540) 338-3528
E-mail: AZK@foxlore.com
Web Site: www.vpba.com

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) was established in 1877 and is responsible for more than 60 laws and more than 70 regulations relating to consumer protection and the promotion of agriculture.

The Department is located within the Governor's Secretariat of Agriculture and Forestry and has both economic development and regulatory responsibilities under state law.

The Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services is appointed by the Governor and serves on a number of state boards and councils.

In carrying out its responsibility for representing the concerns and interests of agriculture, VDACS works in cooperation with Virginia State University, Virginia Tech and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service on research, education and marketing projects.

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CALENDAR OF EQUINE EVENTS

Throughout the year there are opportunities to enjoy and see horse racing events across the state. Whether you are looking for horse races, polo matches, steeplechase jumping, or swimming ponies, you will find it all right here in Virginia.

Month	Event
APRIL	
April 9-15	American Quarter Horse Association East Coast Championship Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
April 14	Strawberry Hill Races at Colonial Downs, New Kent, Va.
April 20-21	Old Dominion Futurity Benefit Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
April 20-21	Mid-Atlantic Tennessee Walking Horse Classic, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
April 21	Middleburg Spring Race Meet, Middleburg, Va.
April 22	Fairfax Hunt, Morven Park, Leesburg, Va.
April 27-29	Old Dominion Region Pony Clubs Dressage Rally, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
April 28-29	Shenandoah Blue Ridge Appaloosa Association Lee-Jackson Spring Fling, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
April 28	Foxfield Spring Race Meet, Charlottesville, Va.
MAY	
May 2	Lexington Spring Premiere, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
May 5	Virginia Gold Cup Race Event, Great Meadow, Va.
May-6	Bull Run Hunt, Brandywine Park, Culpepper, Va.
May 9-13	Lexington Spring Encore, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
May-12	Bedford County Point to Point, Bedford, Va.
May 16-19	Bonnie Blue National Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
May 20	Hear the Beat Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.

JUNE

June 10-15 O'Connor Eventing Clinic, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.

June 15 Thoroughbred Race Season Opening Day, Colonial Downs, New Kent, Va.

June 15-17 Mason Dixon Spectacular Paso Fino Show & Futurity, Anderson Coliseum, Lexington, Va.

June 16 Colonial Turf Cup, Colonial Downs, New Kent, Va.

June 16-17 Old Dominion Region Pony Clubs Games Rally, Wiley Arena, Lexington, Va.

June 21-25 Shenandoah Arabian Classic I & II, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.

June 27 Mid-Atlantic Morgan Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.

JULY

July 13-15 Dressage at Lexington, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.

July 17-21 Rockbridge Regional Fair, Lexington, Va.

July 21 Virginia Derby at Colonial Downs, New Kent, Va.

July 26-29 Region 5 Quarter Horse Experience, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.

AUGUST

Aug 1-5 North American Young Riders Championships, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.

Aug 10-12 National Barrel Horse Association Colonial National, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.

Aug 23-26 Eastern Region Andalusian Horse Club Dressage and Breed Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.

Aug 24-26 Old Dominion Morgan Horse Show and Open Carriage Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.

SEPTEMBER

Sept 15-18 Harness Racing at Colonial Downs, New Kent, Va.

Sept 20-23	VA 4-H State Championship Horse and Pony Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
Sept 22-25	Harness Racing at Colonial Downs, New Kent, Va.
Sept 26-30	Sport Horse Nationals Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
Sept 27- Oct 7	Virginia State Fair, Richmond Raceway Complex, Richmond, Va.
Sept 29-Oct 2	Harness Racing at Colonial Downs, New Kent, Va.
Sept 30	Foxfield Fall Race Meet, Charlottesville, Va.

OCTOBER

Oct 6-9	Harness Racing at Colonial Downs, New Kent, Va.
Oct 13	House Mountain Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
Oct 13-16	Harness Racing at Colonial Downs, New Kent, Va.
Oct 13-14	Therapeutic Riding Association of VA Fall Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
Oct 13	Morven Park Race Meet, Leesburg, Va.
Oct 19-20	Pumpkin Harvest Fall Horse Sale, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va.
Oct 20-23	Harness Racing at Colonial Downs, New Kent, Va.

NOVEMBER

Nov 3-6	Harness Racing at Colonial Downs, New Kent, Va.
Nov 9-11	Southwest VA Hunter-Jumper Association Medal Finals, Anderson Coliseum, Lexington, Va.
Nov 16-18	Virginia Horse Shows Association Championship Show, Anderson Coliseum, Lexington, Va.

*Note: This is just a small sample of the many equine events taking place across the state. For more detailed information, please contact a Virginia Racing Commission representative.



RESOURCES

The following resources can provide additional information about the equine industry, including how to support or get involved in various events and activities throughout the state.

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

STATE

Virginia Racing Commission – www.vrc.virginia.gov
Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association – www.vhbpa.org
Virginia Horse Council – www.virginiahorsecouncil.org
Virginia Thoroughbred Association – www.vabred.org
Virginia Steeplechase Association – www.vasteepelchase.com
Virginia Horse Council – www.virginiahorsecouncil.org
Virginia Horse Industry Board – www.vhib.org
Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association – www.vhbpa.org
Virginia Quarter Horse Association – www.myvqha.com
Virginia Pony Breeders Association – www.vpba.com
Virginia Horse Shows Association – www.vhsa.com
Virginia Harness Association – www.vhha.net
Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services – www.vdacs.virginia.gov
The Virginia Horse Center – www.horsecenter.org
Colonial Downs – www.colonialdowns.com
Virginia Gold Cup Association – www.vagoldcup.com
Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia – www.travinc.org

NATIONAL

American Horse Council – www.horsecouncil.org
American Quarter Horse Association – www.aqha.com
The Jockey Club – www.jockeyclub.com
Master of Foxhounds Association of America – www.mfha.com
National Thoroughbred Racing Association – www.ntra.com
National Steeplechase Association – www.nationalsteeplechase.com
National Sporting Library – www.nsl.org
United States Department of Agriculture – www.usda.gov
United States Dressage Federation – www.usdf.org
United States Polo Association – www.us-polo.org
United States Trotting Association – www.ustrotting.com

BRIEF HISTORY OF HORSES IN VIRGINIA

Since the first colonists arrived in Jamestown, horses have been vital to human survival. Throughout the Commonwealth's history, horses have helped us farm, carried us to explore the frontier and pulled our barges, wagons and trains.

TIME	MILESTONE
1610	Arrival of first horse in Jamestown
1674	First American Quarter Horse races in Enrico County (now Henrico County)
1730	Bulle Rock, first imported Thoroughbred known as the "Father of all Thoroughbreds," arrives in Virginia
1853	The Upperville Colt and Horse Show began (now the oldest horse show in the U.S.)
1895	Strawberry Hill Races established
1941	Founding of the present day Virginia Thoroughbred Association (VTA)
1970	Secretariat was born on March 30, 1970 at Meadow Farm in Doswell, Va.
1973	Secretariat wins the Triple Crown, marking the first time in 25 years a horse won the Triple Crown
1980	Loudon County's Genuine Risk wins Kentucky Derby
1987	The Virginia Horse Center established to promote the state's horse industry
1988	Statewide referendum passed for pari-mutuel wagering
1994	The Virginia Horse Industry Board established
1995	The Virginia Horse Journal established
1996	First satellite wagering facility opened in Virginia (Chesapeake)

1997	Colonial Downs opened in New Kent, Va.
1998	The Breeders Crown, Harness Racing's premier event, held at Colonial Downs
1999	Inaugural running of the Virginia Derby
2007	The 10 th Anniversary of Colonial Downs

GLOSSARY OF EQUINE TERMS

The following is a list of some commonly used equine terms:

Allowance Race – Similar to a claiming race (see below), except the horses are not for sale.

Bay – Brown or tan horse with black mane and tail.

Blinkers – Device to limit horse's vision to prevent it from shying from objects or other horses.

Bolt – Suddenly veering from a straight course.

Break – Harness horse changing to a different gate than the one specified in the race in which it is competing.

Breed – An equine group whose members have been selectively bred for consistent characteristics over a period of time and with pedigrees recorded in a stud book.

Broodmare – A mare used specifically for breeding.

Bug – Apprentice Jockey who is allowed a reduced weight as he/she gains experience.

Chalk – Horse favored in a race.

Chestnut – Yellow-red, red-yellow to golden-yellow horse with red mane and tail.

Claiming Race – A race in which any horse may be purchased at a predetermined price.

Colt – Ungelded, male horse under five years of age.

Conformation – The shape of a horse.

Dam – The female parent of a horse.

Dead Heat – Two or more horses finishing in a tie at the wire.

Derby – Stakes race for three-year-olds.

Driver – A person driving a harness horse in a race.

Driving – Strong urging by the rider.

Fast Track – Dry and even track condition with footing at its best.

Favorite – Horse having the most money wagered on it to win.

Filly – Female horse under five years old.

Foal – A horse under one year old.

Furlong – A distance equal to one-eighth of a mile.

Gait – Used to describe the manner in which a horse moves.

Gallop – A fast gait in which all four feet are off the ground at once.

Gelding – Castrated male horse.

Groom – A person who cares for a horse in the stables.

Hand – An approximately four-inch unit of measurement to describe a horse's height.

Handicap Race – A race in which weights have been assigned by the racing secretary after evaluating entrant's past races.

Handicapping – The art of evaluating a horse's past performance to determine the outcome of a race.

Handily – Working or racing with moderate effort – not under the whip.
Hopples – A part of harness racing tack used to help the horse keep on its proper gait.
Horse – Ungelded male horse five years old or older.
Hot Walk – Cooling out a horse by walking after a race or workout.

Jockey – Rider of a horse in a Thoroughbred race.
Juvenile – A two year old horse.

Length – About eight feet; the length of a horse from nose to tail.
Longshot – Entry not well regarded by bettors, resulting in the possibility of longer odds and higher payoffs.

Maiden Race – A race for horses that have never won a race.
Mare – Female horse five years old or older.
Match Race – A race between only two horses.
Morning Line – An estimate of the final race odds as determined by the track's handicapper.
Mudder – A horse that races well on and off track.
Muddy Track – Track condition in which there is substantial water in the track making footing less than ideal.

Nose – Smallest winning margin at the finish.

Official – Final results of a race have been confirmed by the stewards.

Pace – Relative speed of the leaders of a race at various stages during the race.
Pacer – A harness racing gait in which the legs on one side of the horse move together.
Paddock – Area where the horses are saddled and paraded before post time.
Pari-mutuel – The form of wagering used at Colonial Downs whereby players wager against each other, not against the "house".
Parked Out – Term for a harness horse that is not able to race near the inside rail due to the position of other horses.
Pedigree – The details of a horse's ancestry.
Photo Finish – A finish between two or more horses that is so close a still photograph must be used to determine the order of finish.
Pole Distance – Markers placed around the track, usually every one-sixteenth of a mile.
Post Parade – When the horses leave the paddock and go toward the starting gate.
Post Time – The designated time for a race to begin.
Purse – The total prize money awarded in a race.

Recall – When the first attempt at starting in a harness race is nullified by the official in charge of the start.

Roan Horse – A horse with a red and white hair mixture.

Scratch – When a horse is withdrawn from a race.

Silks – Jacket worn by jockey representing the owner of a horse.

Simulcast – Simultaneous broadcast of a race to betting facilities away from the live track.

Sire – The male parent of a horse.

Stakes Race – Highest class of race, reserved for the best horses.

Stallion – Ungelded, male horse used specifically for breeding.

Standardbred – The breed of horse that participates in harness racing.

Starting Gate – A mechanical device that allows each horse to begin a race at the same time.

Steeplechase – A race over a course with artificial obstacles.

Stewards – The highest level officials overseeing the races; stewards work to maintain the integrity of the sport.

Stick – A jockey's whip.

Stretch – The straightaway portion of a race track.

Stud Book – A book kept to record the pedigrees of purebred horses.

Sulky – A two-wheeled cart carrying the driver and pulled by a horse in harness racing.

Tack – Equipment used for riding and driving a horse.

Thoroughbred – A horse that can trace its lineage back to three original horses; thoroughbreds are specifically bred for racing.

Trainer – Person in charge of conditioning horses in preparation for races.

Trotter – In harness racing, horses that move with a diagonal gait.

Yearling – A horse that is one year old.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION?

A: The Virginia Racing Commission oversees racing and pari-mutuel wagering in Virginia. The Commission works to increase awareness of the horse industry in the Commonwealth and to promote horses as a major agricultural commodity.

Q: WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF RACING?

A: *Thoroughbred Racing* – Thoroughbred horse racing is the main form of horse racing throughout the world. Thoroughbred horses are a breed known for their speed and endurance, but they have also proven to be quite adept at other sports such as hunting, jumping and polo and are frequently used to upgrade breeds of horses or to create entirely new breeds.

Harness Racing – Harness racing is an offshoot of traditional horse racing. In harness racing, the horses do not typically gallop with a rider on their backs but are tethered to a light cart, which a jockey guides around an oval racetrack. The types of horses that harness race are called Standardbreds, trotters or pacers. They are specifically bred for this type of sport.

Steeplechase Racing – The steeplechase is a form of horse racing in which the course typically consists of open country and a number of obstacles such as fence jumping or traversing ditches and is also used for fox hunters to test the speed of their mounts while racing cross country. During its meet season, Colonial Downs hosts several steeplechase races on its Secretariat Turf Course. When steeplechase racing first began in England, church steeples were the tallest and most prominent landmarks and were used to mark the finish line of the event, hence the name “steeplechase,” which actually means “chase to the steeple.”

Q: WHERE CAN I SEE LIVE RACING IN VIRGINIA?

A: Live racing at Colonial Downs begins with the Thoroughbred season on June 15 and continues through August 7. Harness racing begins September 15 and continues through November 6 at Colonial Downs. Other popular racing events throughout the year include Foxfields (Steeplechase) in Charlottesville, Va. and The Strawberry Hill Races (Steeplechase), The Virginia Derby and The Colonial Cup (Thoroughbred) in New Kent, Va. at Colonial Downs, and The Gold Cup (Steeplechase) at Great Meadow in The Plains, Va. You can also visit one of the state’s nine satellite wagering facilities and view live racing from across the country throughout the year.

Q: WHAT IS A SATELLITE WAGERING FACILITY?

A: A satellite wagering facility, also known as an off-track betting parlor (OTB), is a legal wagering facility at a location other than the track where the race is being held. OTB's must conform to the state's rules and regulations concerning gambling.

Q: WHAT IS THERE TO DO AT A SATELLITE WAGERING FACILITY?

A: Virginia's nine satellite wagering facilities offer visitors the opportunity to view all types of live racing year-round in a clean and friendly environment. Races from Delaware Park, Colonial Downs and other tracks in the region are simulcast throughout the day. Food and beverage are available at all nine facilities. VIP rooms are available at some of Virginia's facilities, and most have the capability to cater events and host special race days for fans.

Q: HOW CAN I LEARN ABOUT WAGERING ON HORSE RACES?

A: You can learn about wagering on horses by visiting www.colonialdowns.com and visiting the racing education section of the Web site. The site explains a variety of options on different wagers you can choose when wagering at the track and will walk you through the proper terminology and how to place a bet at the track. Staff and employees at the satellite wagering facility and the track are always willing and able to help you learn or understand the wagering process, and tip sheets and instructional materials are also available.

Each time you wager at the track or at a satellite wagering facility, the money goes into what is called a "handle." A handle is the aggregate sum of all money wagered during a race, season or year.

Q: WHY IS THE WAGERING HANDLE IMPORTANT TO VIRGINIA'S ECONOMY?

A: The wagering handle is important to Virginia's economy because one percent of the total handle goes directly back to the Breeders' Fund to help sustain a native racing industry in the Commonwealth. This fund enables those involved with the industry to provide for the breeding and training of Virginia's race horses.

In 2006, horse racing generated almost \$2.9 million in tax revenue for the state, raising the total amount of tax revenues generated since pari-mutuel horse racing began in 1996 to approximately \$23.2 million. Most of the tax revenues pay for the operation of the Virginia Racing Commission, but nearly \$6 million has gone to the state's General Fund.

Q: WHAT IS THE VIRGINIA BREEDERS' FUND?

A: The Virginia Breeders' Fund is a financial incentive program to encourage Thoroughbred breeding in the Commonwealth. It is funded by a one percent take-out of all live and simulcast pari-mutuel wagering conducted in the Commonwealth. Payments to the Virginia Breeders' Fund exceed \$1 million annually.

The daily activities and administrative functions of the Virginia Breeders' Fund are handled by the Virginia Thoroughbred Association (VTA) and the Virginia Harness Horse Association under the direction of the Virginia Racing Commission.

The purpose of the Fund is:

- To recognize Virginia-bred horses through incentive awards.
- To promote breeding and further develop the racing industry.

Only horses residing in Virginia that are registered with the respective breed organizations are eligible to earn incentives in the form of Breeder, Owner or Stallion Owner Awards.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME CAREERS/JOBS IN THE EQUINE INDUSTRY?

A: The following are some jobs that will allow you day-to-day contact with horses in the equine industry: Jockey, Veterinarian, Rehabilitation Therapist, Riding Instructor, Veterinary Technician, Bloodstock Agent, Rodeo Professional, Stallion Manager, Trainer, Farm Manager, Breeder, Hot Walker, Farrier, Steward, Driver (harness racing) and others.